

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference W0279WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	
	See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/EP2004/006788	International filing date (day/month/year) 23.06.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 23.07.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B21D45/06		
Applicant CROWN PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY INC et al.		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of sheets, as follows:
 - sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the International application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18.02.2005	Date of completion of this report 05.10.2005
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Ris, M Telephone No. +31 70 340-



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/006788

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements*** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

Description, Pages

1-9 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-12 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing

- The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):
- This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - the description, pages
 - the claims, Nos.
 - the drawings, sheets/figs
 - the sequence listing (*specify*):
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*):

* If item 4 applies, some or all of these sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT
ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/006788

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-12
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-12
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7):

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/006788

Re Item V.

1 US 5 115 662 (D1), which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses a stripping assembly as indicated in the preamble of claim 1 and a stripping method as indicated in the preamble of claim 12.

From this, the subject-matter of independent claims 1 and 12 differs in that the fingers are able to self align to the shape of the can on the return stroke of the punch.

The subject-matter of claims 1 and 12 is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT)

2 The effect of this feature is that all fingers touch the can on the return stroke of the punch even when the can has an irregular shape, such that biassing forces on the can are avoided.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may thus be regarded as how to efficiently strip the can from the punch even when the can has an irregular shape.

The solution to this problem proposed in claims 1 and 12 of the present application does not involve an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

The feature, in which the subject-matter of claims 1 and 12 differ from the nearest state of the art D1, has already been employed for the same purpose in a similar stripping assembly, resp. stripping method, see GB 2 181 685 (D2). It would be obvious to the person skilled in the art, namely when the same result is to be achieved, to apply these features with corresponding effect to a stripping assembly, resp. stripping method according to document D1, thereby arriving at a stripping assembly according to claim 1 and a stripping method according to claim 12.

3 Dependent claims 2 - 11 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step. The application of the features mentioned in these claims in stripping assemblies appear normal in the technical field of stripping.